THREE LITTLE WORDS

A Foreign Student’s Guide to English Articles.

by Elizabeth Claire
INTRODUCTION

0.1 The three words that are used the most often in the English language are

a, an, and the

0.2 A, an, and the are a part of speech called articles. Whenever you see or hear an article, you can expect a noun to follow. (A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.)

0.3 Sometimes the noun follows directly after a, an or the:

- a face
- an apple
- the pencil

0.4 Sometimes there are adjectives between a, an or the. and the noun. (An adjective is a word that tells about or describes a noun.)

- a happy face
- an old rotten apple
- the short fat pencil
0.5 If you leave out *a, an, and the*, or if you use them incorrectly, your meaning may still be clear. But it will not sound right to Americans. In some cases it can make a very big difference in the meaning of what you say.

a. He has black hair. b. He has a black hair.

0.6 In speaking, the articles are not stressed. They are said quickly and are joined with the word that follows them. It’s very hard to hear *a, an, and the* when Americans are talking. These little words seem to disappear!

0.7 Some languages do not have articles. In other languages there are many forms of articles and they are used in ways different from the way English uses them.

Because of these differences, almost everyone learning English has some trouble with *a, an, and the*. This book was written to help you.
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

There are rules that can help you decide when to use *a*, *an*, or *the*, and when to leave them out. Each of these rules has some exceptions. And the exceptions have exceptions! Native English-speakers did not learn these rules in school. They just say "It sounds right this way."

This book has TEN STEPS to help you understand how Americans use these words. But the most important way to improve your English is to listen and read. Then the correct way will sound right to you too, when you speak and write. If you are using this book without a teacher, here are some suggestions for you:

1. Relax. If you are nervous in conversation because of limited English, do only STEP ONE and STEP TWO in this book. Listen to native speakers as much as you can, and increase your vocabulary and understanding. Go on to the next steps only when you feel ready.

2. Ask a native-English speaker to help you with the listening and speaking parts in STEP ONE. You will need a native speaker to check some of your answers and the free composition in the mastery tests.

3. Read the rules and sentences, then do the exercises. Check your answers.

4. If you score 100 on any test, that’s great! Go on to the next step.

5. If your answers do not agree with the book's answers, re-read the rules in that step. If you have more than four answers wrong, wait several days or longer before you go to the next step. Do not try to complete the book too quickly.

6. After you complete STEP NINE, take the review tests in STEP TEN and check your answers. If you have made any errors, go back to the rules. The number in parentheses tells which rule to see. For example (1.2) is paragraph 1.2 on page 5.

7. Take the MASTERY TESTS. Have a native-English speaker or a teacher correct your sentences.

8. Keep listening for the use of these three little words and notice them in your reading. Ask English-speaking friends to correct you if you are using *a*, *an*, or *the* incorrectly or omitting them where they are needed.
STEP ONE: Listen carefully

1.1 Can you hear a, an, and the?

EXERCISE:
Train your ears to hear these little words. Listen to a native English speaker (or the teacher) read a few sentences at a time from any simple story. Make a mark (/) every time you hear a, an or the.

After each item, the reader will tell you how many times a, an, or the appeared in the sentences. Check this against the number you wrote down.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I hear:</th>
<th>There really are:</th>
<th>I hear:</th>
<th>There really are:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ______________</td>
<td>6. ______________</td>
<td>2. ______________</td>
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<td>5. ______________</td>
<td>10. ______________</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you improve as you practiced? ____________.
Practice a little every day with an English speaker reading to you.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ______________</td>
<td>10. ______________</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.2 *A* and *an* mean the same thing: one.

1.3 *An* is used before words that begin with vowel sounds. (The vowels are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u*).

The letter *h* is "silent" in some words.

The names of the letters *e*, *f*, *h*, *I*, *m*, *n*, *r*, *s*, and *x* begin with vowel sounds.

- an orange
- an umbrella
- an idea
- an "f"
- an ______________

- an Indian
- an egg
- an hour
- an "o"
- an ______________

- an angry mother
- an excellent paper
- an honest person
- an "m"
- an ______________

1.4 *A* is used before words that begin with consonant sounds. (Consonants are those letters which are not vowels.)

The *E* and *u* in some words sound like the consonant sound */yu/.

*One* sounds like *wun*.

The names of the letters *b*, *c*, *d*, *g*, *j*, *k*, *p*, *q*, *t*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *y*, and *z* begin with consonant sounds.

- a jet
- a house
- a university
- a "b"
- a ______________

- a car
- a doll
- a unicorn
- a "t"
- a ______________

- a delicious hamburger
- a yellow submarine
- a European man
- a one-way street
- a ______________
EXERCISES
Write *a* or *an* in the following sentences:

1. I had _____ egg for breakfast.
2. I broke _____ cup.
3. My mother bought _____ umbrella last night.
4. Betty spells her name with _____ "i", not with ___ "y".
5. After _____ hour, we got tired and went home.
6. The new student borrowed _____ ESL book from the office.
7. My teacher has _____ M.A. degree from Columbia University.
8. I would like to have _____ hundred dollars.
9. It is _____ honor to meet the governor of New Jersey.
10. My cousin joined _____ union.
11. I have never seen _____ unicorn.
12. It is good to meet _____ honest person.
13. There is _____ A & P Supermarket on the corner.
14. The word "restroom" is _____ euphemism (polite word) for toilet.
15. Ben has _____ one-track mind.
16. He goes to _____ university in California.
17. I washed my hair with _____ herbal shampoo.
18. A clown with _____ unhappy face did tricks for the children.
19. Frank has _____ unique way of looking at the world.
20. The word *an* is _____ article.

ANSWERS

1. an  6. an  11. a  16. a
2. a  7. an  12. an  17. an
3. an  8. a  13. an  18. an
4. an, a  9. an  14. a  19. a
5. an  10. a  15. a  20. an
1.5 There are two different ways to pronounce *the* in careful speech. Before consonant sounds, it is pronounced [ðə]. Listen to a native speaker say these phrases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the man</th>
<th>the Chinese puzzle</th>
<th>the green grass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the balloon</td>
<td>the red house</td>
<td>the long road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the bicycle</td>
<td>the tall woman</td>
<td>the difficult lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the union</td>
<td>the whole pie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.6 Before vowel sounds, it is pronounced [ði].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the answer</th>
<th>the ugly mask</th>
<th>the oldest fairy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the orange</td>
<td>the ice cream cone</td>
<td>the end of the story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the air</td>
<td>the Indian</td>
<td>the eighth floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the angry girl</td>
<td>the open umbrella</td>
<td>the umpire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the &quot;s&quot;</td>
<td>the hour before dawn</td>
<td>the honest truth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISE:**

Read the examples from groups 1.5 and 1.6 above. Practice connecting *the* with the word after it, as though the two words were just one word. Example: [ði × nsqr].
STEP TWO: Look carefully Can you see a, an, and the?

You will learn to use the articles correctly if you become more aware of them in your reading.

EXERCISE:

A. Read this story from Aesop. Draw a circle around all the a's, an's and the's. Count the number of words that you have circled; write that number on the line at the end of each paragraph.

THE WILD DOG AND THE FARM DOG

1. Once there was (a) wild dog who was very, very hungry. He had not had anything to eat for (a) long time. He was shaggy and thin and his bones stuck out through his skin. He ran here and there through (the) woods and meadows looking for (a) rabbit or (a) squirrel or even (a) mouse to eat. But it was winter, and he found nothing. Finally he came near (a) farm house where he met (an) old farm dog. (The) farm dog was plump and had well-brushed hair.

2. "How come you are so plump and well-fed?" asked the wild dog.

3. "Oh, the farmer gives me milk, bones, and delicious scraps from his table," said the farm dog. "All I have to do is bark to warn him if robbers come; it's a very easy job. I'm sure the farmer would give you the same if you worked here too."

4. "I think I would like such an easy job," said the wild dog, and his mouth started to water as he thought of the milk, bones and scraps from the farmer's table. "I could protect the farm very well, as I have good ears, good eyes and a good voice. I can bark very loud."
5. Just then, the wild dog noticed a place around the farm dog's neck where the hair was all rubbed off. "What is that on your neck?" asked the wild dog.

6. "Oh, that's where my collar goes. It rubs off the hair. But it doesn't hurt; it's nothing to worry about," said the farm dog.

7. "Your collar? You mean you are tied up on a rope?"

8. "Yes, most of the time. But I don't mind," said the farm dog. "I am used to it. Let's go now so the farmer can see you and give you something to eat. You look very hungry."

9. "You mean you cannot run through the meadows and the woods and go wherever you please?"

10. "Once in a while, I wish I could" said the farm dog. "But it's no problem for me, I'm used to it. Stay. You'll get used to it too."
11. "No thank you," said the wild dog. "I would rather be hungry and free than well-fed on a rope. Good bye!"

12. And with those words, the wild dog ran off into the woods.

13. How many articles did you find? _______

14. Did you miss any articles? _______  How many did you miss? _______

B. Go back to the story and underline all the nouns. (A noun is the word for a person, place, thing or idea.) Notice that wherever there is an article, a noun is sure to follow. However, not all nouns have articles before them! Nouns can sometimes be used as adjectives: farm dog.

15. How many nouns did you find?_____

ANSWERS

1.  9 (see sample)
2.  1 (dog)
3.  5 (farmer, milk, bones, scraps, table, farm, dog, robbers, job, farmer)
4.  6 (job, dog, mouth, milk, bones, scraps, farmer's, table, farm, ears, eyes, voice)
5.  5 (dog, place, farm dog's neck, hair, neck dog)
6.  2 (collar, hair, farm dog)
7.  1 (collar, rope)
8.  3 (time, farm, dog, farmer)
9.  2 (meadows, woods)
10. 2 (while, farm, dog, problem)
11. 2 (dog, rope)
12. 2 (words, dog, woods)
13. 40
14. 64
STEP THREE: The Indefinite Article *(A/an)*

3.1 Use *a* or *an* before nouns that are singular, countable, and indefinite.

- single = one
- countable = can be counted
- indefinite = not definite, not specific, not previously spoken about or pointed out.

a. Would you like a cookie?

b. I ate an egg for breakfast.

3.2 Never use *a* or *an* with plural nouns or non-countable nouns. The word *some* may be used for plural indefinite or non-countable nouns.

a. I ate eggs for breakfast.               I ate some eggs for breakfast.
b. I had soup for lunch.                   I had some soup for lunch.

3.3 Countable nouns are names of things that can be counted. Most (but not all) countable nouns have a definite size or shape.

- one chair, two chairs, three chairs ...
- one idea                  two ideas ...
- one person              two people
- one deer                  two deer
one tooth
one ______

one ______

thirty-two teeth
two ______
two ______

many ______

3.4 Use a (an) when you mean one, but you are not calling attention to the number.

a. Which would you like: a cookie, an apple, or a piece of cake?
b. I'll have an apple, please.
c. _______________________________________________________

3.5 Use one when you mean "only one" or wish to call attention to the number or contrast it with another number.

a. Would you like one apple or two?
b. One apple is enough, thank you.
c. _______________________________________________________
d. _______________________________________________________

EXERCISES

Write a, or an or one. Do not write a or an before plural nouns. Write the symbol [T] to show that there is no article needed. (T = zero, nothing)

1. I read _____ book about Mars last night. I like _____ books about outer space.
2. I usually read a lot, but last week, I read only _____ book.
3. My mother baked _____ cookies yesterday. Would you like cookie?
4. I used to eat two eggs and three pieces of toast for breakfast. Now I'm on a diet.
   For breakfast I have ______ egg and ______ piece of toast.
5. I had ______ goldfish when I was six years old. Its name was "Jaws."
6. My sister has _______ goldfish. They are always hungry.
7. Lou has two dogs, six cats and _______ parrot.
8. Joe's uncle tells _______ good stories.
9. Marc has _______ aunt who lives in Mississippi.
10. _______ old lady found _______ hungry cat.
11. We bought _______ bananas at the supermarket yesterday.
12. _______ banana was rotten, but the others were okay.

ANSWERS

1. a, T  4. one, one  8. T  11. T
2. one  5. a  9. an  10. An, a
3. T, a  6. T  7. one (or a)

3.6 Non-countable nouns name things that have no definite size or shape. These are also called mass nouns.

Other mass nouns:
----------------------------------
milk
ice
ice cream
cheese
coffee
ketchup
rain
chocolate

----------------------------------
water
oil
butter
bread
jam
mustard
snow
candy

----------------------------------
air
gravy
salt
meat
applesauce
money
fog
gas
3.7 In order to show quantities of non-countable nouns, containers or units of measure must be used.

a bottle of ketchup
a cup of coffee
a dish of ice cream
a jar of mustard
a loaf of bread
a slice of bread
a nickel

a pound of butter
a quart of milk
a gallon of water
a pint of jam
a spoonful of applesauce
a grain of salt
a dollar

Other units and containers:

3.8 Some words can be either countable or non-countable, depending on their meaning in a sentence. When the word is countable, use a (an); when it is non-countable, no article is used.

a. I ate an egg for breakfast (a whole egg)
b. I got egg on my shirt. (an indefinite amount of egg)
c. His hair is black (all of it.)
d. There is a hair in the soup. (a single strand of hair)
e. Do you want chicken? (the meat of a chicken)
f. Do you want a chicken? (a whole bird)
g. Mary had a little lamb. (a baby sheep, a pet)
h. Sarah ate lamb for dinner. (meat from a lamb)

i. a fish = the whole animal
j. fish = the meat from a fish
k. candy = a kind of food
l. a candy = one piece of candy
EXERCISES
Write a only where it is needed. Write [T] where no article is needed.

1. Do you want ______ milk with your coffee?
2. I like ______ lamb, especially with potatoes and lots of gravy.
3. Henry has ______ lamb. Its name is "Snow White."
4. We always have ______ bread with our meals.
5. Put ______ salad dressing on your salad.
6. The mechanic put ______ quart of oil into the engine.
7. We found ______ money on the sidewalk.
8. Where can I buy ______ meat?
9. Can you give me ______ bowl of rice?
10. ______ grain of salt is very small.

ANSWERS

1. T  3. a  5. T  7. T  9. a
2. T  4. T  6. a  8. T  10. a
STEP FOUR: Other uses of a and an

4.1 Use *a* or *an* when you are telling that someone has a certain job or occupation.

a. My father is a banker.

b. Joe is a truck driver.

c. Can he be a singer with such an awful voice?

d. Louis is studying to be an engineer.

e. Carmen is a very good cook.

f. _______________________________________________________________

g. _______________________________________________________________

4.2 Use *a* or *an* in expressions of time or measurement.

a. We have gym three times a week.

b. She goes to California twice a year.

c. I visit my grandmother once a month.

d. Joe earns two dollars an hour.

e. Those shoes cost thirty dollars a pair.

f. Butter is a dollar seventy a pound now.

g. The car was speeding at seventy miles an hour.

h. _______________________________________________________________

i. _______________________________________________________________

4.3 Use *a* or *an* in these common expressions:

a. I saw him a couple of months ago.

b. All of a sudden, the engine began to shake and rattle,

c. It's been a long time since I saw you.
d. Did you have a good time?
e. I'm in a hurry to get to my class.
f. As a matter of fact, we agree with you completely.
g. It's a shame it rained during your whole vacation.
h. What a pity that she lost her job, her husband and her best friend.
i. Charlie is always in a good mood after he has a good dinner.
j. New Yorkers always seem to be in a rush.
k. ________________________________________________________________
f. Maria has a little money. She's going to Florida for a vacation.
(a little = some, enough)

g. ________________________________________________________________

h. ________________________________________________________________

4.6 Other expressions with a

a. A great many people marched in the parade.

b. A good many of my ideas come to me in my dreams,

c. A good number of students attend regularly.

d. Chang sends a great deal of his money to his parents back in Taiwan.

e. Many a foreign student has been confused by English grammar.

= Many foreign students have been confused by English grammar.

EXERCISES
Write a, an, or one, or T in the lines:

1. Eggs cost ninety cents _______ dozen.

2. We eat three times _______ day.

3. Joe saw her _______ couple of months ago.

4. If you're in _______ hurry, I can get it for you now.

5. Would you like _______ sugar in your tea?


7. Paul ate _______ fish for dinner last night.

8. Are you in good mood?
9. The speed limit is fifty-five miles _______ hour.
10. His uncle is _______ teacher.
11. Carlos wants to be _______ astronaut.
12. Is this the kind of _______ party you like?
13. _______ few people like to admit that they are wrong. (Not many people)
14. There were _______ few people at the party last night. (Several people)
15. If you have _______ little time, I can tell you the story. (a small amount of time)
16. She has _______ little energy. She's always tired. (Not much energy)
17. Read a page of your usual reading material and underline a and an wherever they appear. Notice the nouns that follow. See if they are countable nouns, or nouns that are in the common expressions you just read about.
18. Make a tape recording of an English talk show, commercial or news broadcast. Listen to it several times until you can clearly hear the articles and identify the nouns that follow them.

ANSWERS

1. a 6. an 11. an 15. a
3. a 8. a 13. T
4. a 9. an 14. a
5. T 10. a
STEP FIVE: The Definite Article (*the*)

5.1 The word *the* points out a definite person, place or thing or idea, or one that has been mentioned before, (mention = talk about, refer to)

*The* may be used with either singular or plural nouns.

a. I liked the story in STEP TWO about the wild dog and the farm dog.

b. The exercises in this book will help us to use the articles correctly.

c. ________________________________________________________________

d. ________________________________________________________________

5.2 Use *the* when the listener or reader already knows which things you mean, or when there is only one possible item you are speaking about.

a. I took the cat to the veterinarian.
   (my cat, or the cat I usually talk about; the only veterinarian in town, or the usual veterinarian I go to) *(veterinarian = animal doctor)*

   Compare: I took a cat to a veterinarian.
   (It is not certain which cat or which veterinarian the speaker is talking about.)

b. I took the car to the repair shop to have the brakes fixed.
   (the speaker's car or the car the speaker has talked about before; the repair shop the speaker usually goes to or has talked about before, or the only repair shop in town; the brakes that are on the car)

   Compare: I bought a car from a repair shop.
   (A car and a repair shop that the speaker has not spoken about before.)

c. The family that lives in apartment 5B comes from Hong Kong.
   *(The* is used because there is an explanation that makes it clear (definite) which family I am talking about. There is only one family that lives in apartment 5B.

   Compare: A family that lives on Main Street comes from Singapore.
   (There are many families that live on Main Street, so it is still not clear to you which one.)
d. Could you lend me the green marker please?
(There is only one possible green marker.)

Compare: Could you lend me a green marker please?
(Any green marker will do, and there may be more than one.)

e. ________________________________________________________________
f. ________________________________________________________________

EXERCISES

Write a or the in the following sentences:

1. Once upon a time, there was _______ wild dog.
2. He came to _______ farm and met _______ farm dog.
3. _______ wild dog spoke to _______ farm dog about his job.
4. _______ job was easy; all _______ farm dog had to do was bark if _______ robber came near _______ farm.
5. _______ farmer fed _______ farm dog milk, bones and scraps from _______ family's dinner table.
6. _______ wild dog saw _______ mark on _______ farm dog's neck.
7. _______ mark was from _______ rope.
9. He did not want to wear _______ rope around his neck.
10. _______ farm dog was sad to see him leave.
11. I needed _______ new rain coat.
12. I went to _______ new closing store on Main Street.
13. _______ sales lady in _______ coat department was very helpful.
14. I wanted _______ short coat but couldn’t find one.
15. _______ saleslady showed me where _______ short rain coats were.
16. I bought _______ light blue rain coat and _______ light blue hat to match.
17. _______ coat was sixty dollars and _______ hat was ten.

ANSWERS

1. a
2. a, a
3. the, the
4. The, the, a, the
5. the, the, the
6. The, a, the
7. The, a
8. the
9. a
10. The
11. a
12. the (a)
13. A (the)
14. a
15. the
16. a, a
17. The, the
5.3 Use *the* with things that are the only ones of their kind.
(There may be others in the same class of things, but we don't usually think about them.)

a. The sun rose at six a.m. this morning. (the sun in our solar system.)
b. The moon and the stars shone brightly last night.
   (our moon, and the stars we ordinarily see at night.)
c. Have you read the Bible? (the famous Christian collection of stories)
d. The sky is blue. (today's sky or the usual sky above us.)
e. The weather is great. (our present weather)
f. The world is full of opportunities. (our world.)
g. Forget about the past. (the time before today)
h. Don't worry about the future. (the time after today)
i. There is no time like the present. (now)
j. I spoke to him on the telephone yesterday.
k. I heard about it on the radio.
l. In just two minutes we'll be on the air. (broadcasting over the radio)
m. In just two minutes we'll be in the air. (flying in the Earth's atmosphere)
n. (Notice: I saw it on television last night.)
o. ________________________________________________________________
p. ________________________________________________________________
EXERCISE:
Write *a, an* or *the* only where they are needed. Write *T* where nothing is needed.

1. How is _______ weather in Puerto Rico in the summer?
2. I love looking at _______ ocean.
3. _______ future will be here before you know it.
5. Barry found _______ wallet that everyone had been looking for.
6. Carrie found _______ wallet in the subway.
   (one she hadn't known about before)
7. During an eclipse of _______ sun, the shadow of _______ moon falls on _______ earth.
8. What do you think about _______ economy?
9. Don't let _______ past run your life.
10. Do you listen to _______ radio in your car on your way to work?
11. What did you watch on _______ TV last night?
12. You ought to see _______ doctor. (any doctor)
13. You ought to see _______ doctor. (your doctor)
15. _______ moon is 240,000 miles from _______ earth.
16. Sometimes you can see _______ planet Venus in the west, just after _______ sun sets.
17. I saw _______ shooting star last night.

ANSWERS

1. the   5. the   9. the   13. the   17. a
2. the   6. a    10. the   14. a, a
3. The   7. the, the, the 11. T   15. The, the
4. The   8. the   12. a    16. the, the
5.4 When something is outstanding, or excellent in comparison with others of its kind, we stress the word *the* before it. In writing, we usually underline it or write it in italic letters. In speaking, it is often pronounced [θ].

a. Sherry gave *the* party of the year.
b. I met *the* man last night.
(The speaker is saying that this man is very special; he is "Mr. Right." i.e. someone to fall in love with and marry)

5.5 Always use *the* with superlatives:

a. She is the best cook I have ever known.
b. That's the best picture in the whole museum.
c. Dick bought the most expensive watch in the store.
d. I buy nothing but the best for my family

e. ________________________________
f. ________________________________

EXERCISES
Write *the*, or *a (an)* in the following sentences.

1. Bill is ______ nice person. He is ______ nicest person I have ever met.
2. I just read ______ interesting book. It was ______ most interesting book in the whole library.
3. Mother bought ______ expensive dress. In fact, it was ______ most expensive dress in the store.
4. Mother said that ______ best thing to do for the flu is go to bed and rest.
5. ______ good thing to do for a headache is to put ice on your forehead.
6. Last winter was ______ worst winter in twenty years.
7. Maggie is ______ prettiest girl in the class.
8. One of ______ most difficult things to master in English is the use of articles.

ANSWERS

1. a, the  
2. an, the  
3. an, the  
4. the  
5. A (one)  
6. the  
7. the  
8. the
STEP SIX: The Definite Article versus the Indefinite Article

6.1 Use the definite article, *the*, when you want to point something out and make it definite.

(*The* is like *this, that, these and those* except that it does not show place, and it may be used with either singular and plural nouns.)

Use the indefinite article *a (an)*, with singular nouns that are not definite. The plural form for the indefinite article (*a, an*) is *no* article. [T]

---

a. Definite: The boys in Richard's class are athletes. (those boys)
b. Indefinite: Boys grow up to be men. (any boys, all boys)
c. Definite: The teachers at this school are kind. (these teachers)
d. Indefinite: Teachers need special training. (any teachers, all teachers)
e. Definite: __________________________________________________
f. Indefinite: __________________________________________________

---

EXERCISES

Write *the* only with definite nouns. Write T for plural, indefinite nouns:

1. It's hot in this room. Can you open ______ windows?
2. ______ girls mature faster than ______ boys.
3. Do you think ______ dogs are smarter than ______ cats?
4. Where are ______ girls you told me about?
5. ______ scientists I spoke to are working on a way to create cheaper electricity.
6. Mother says that ______ vegetables are good for you.
7. ______ vegetables from my garden are nice and fresh.

---

ANSWERS

1. the
2. T, T
3. T, T
4. the
5. The
6. T
7. The
6.2 Do not use *the* with months, days of the week, or holidays.
   a. I'll see you in April.
   b. Wednesday comes before Thursday.
   c. Lou's birthday is August 12.
   d. There are only 10 days till Christmas.
   e. My family always enjoys Thanksgiving.
   f. New Year's Day falls on (a) Monday this year.

6.3 Exceptions: Use *the* in expressions such as "the Fourth of July."
   a. My birthday is the twelfth of January.

6.4 When days of the week are modified by a following phrase, use *the*.
   a. We can leave work a half hour early the Friday before vacation.
   b. "Mardi Gras" is the Tuesday before Lent begins.

6.5 Do not use *the* before personal names.
   a. Joe is my friend.
   b. Mrs. Baffa is a principal.
   c. I saw Senator Chase.
   d. King George signed the treaty.
   e. _______________________________________________________
   f. _______________________________________________________
6.6 Exception: When there is more than one person by the same name, use *the* to make it clear which one you mean.

a. The John Brown from Los Angeles is *the* one I was talking about, not *the* John Brown from San Francisco.

b. ____________________________________________________________

6.7 When you refer to all the people in a family, use *the* and the plural form of the family name.

a. The Lopezes live in Fort Lee.

b. All the Katos had the flu last winter.

c. Have you seen the Foxes lately?

d. _____________________________________________________________

6.8 Another way to refer to the entire family is to use *the* plus the family name, plus the word family.

a. There have been many famous people in the Kennedy family.

b. _____________________________________________________________

6.9 *The* is used with some proper names followed by an adjective or noun:

- Alexander the Great
- Richard the Lionhearted
- Louis XIV (Louis the Fourteenth)
- Elizabeth II (Elizabeth the Second)
- Jimmy the Greek
- William the Conqueror
- Leif the Lucky
- Eric the Red
EXERCISES
Write the only where it is necessary in the following sentences:

1. Where is _______ Betsy?
2. Prances married _______ Dr. Smith who is a surgeon, not Dr. Smith who is _______ a dentist.
3. _______ Dr. Jonas Salk created a vaccine for polio.
4. _______ Wongs moved after they won the lottery.
5. Do you know _______ Browns?
6. _______ Mr. Brown is my best friend.
7. _______ Trump family went on vacation last week.
8. This course was taught by _______ Professor Wheeler last year.
9. Have you ever heard of John _______ Baptist?
10. Who was Alfred _______ Great's son?
11. _______ Halloween is in _______ October.
12. We worked hard on _______ Monday and _______ Tuesday, but we played on _______ Wednesday.
13. His birthday is on _______ Fourth of July.
14. We celebrated _______ New Year's Eve quietly at home.
15. _______ Wednesday before _______ Thanksgiving is a busy day for the family cook.

ANSWERS

2. the, the  7. The  12. T, T, T
3. T  8. T  13. the
4. The  9. the  14. T
5. the  10. the  15. The, T
6.10 When talking about clothing or parts of the body, a personal adjective pronoun (my, your, his, her, our, etc.) is often used, (not the definite article as in some other languages)

a. My stomach aches.
b. She cut her finger,
c. Fix your tie.
d. There is a hole in your shirt.
e. We worked until our arms ached.
f. The dog used his nose to find the robber.
g. The cat knocked over the glass with its tail.
h. _______________________________________________________________

6.11 Exceptions:

I have a headache, a toothache, a stomachache, a back ache.

Use the with parts of the body after myself, himself, yourself, etc. In phrases after on, in, over and by showing the location of an action received by the owner of the body part, either the or a personal adjective pronoun may be used.

a. Carry bumped herself on the head.
b. He cut himself on the thumb.
c. The victim was shot in the chest. (or, in his/her chest)
d. The teacher pulled the boy by the ear. (or, by his ear)
e. The stone hit her in the shoulder. (or, in her shoulder)
f. The soldier was wounded in the leg. (or, in his leg)
g. The baby pulled the cat by the tail. (or, by its tail)
h. Compare: The ball went over his head.

He was hit over the head.
6.12 Do not use *the* with certain other "noun markers." Some of these are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>this</th>
<th>my</th>
<th>another</th>
<th>much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>every</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>these</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>those</td>
<td>his</td>
<td>any</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whose</td>
<td>its</td>
<td>either</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>which</td>
<td>our</td>
<td>neither</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what</td>
<td>their</td>
<td>enough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXERCISES**

Write *the* or *a (an)* or a personal pronoun adjective (*my your, her, his, our, etc.* where they are needed.

1. Janet brushed _______ hair.
2. Richard hurt himself in _______ shoulder.
3. We washed _______ hands in hot water.
4. The boy cut himself on _______ leg.
5. She had _______ toothache all night long
6. I hurt _______ back.
7. The old man bumped _______ head.
8. Did the old man bump himself on _______ head?
9. The policeman shot the robber in _______ back.
10. She grabbed him by _______ neck and shook him.

**ANSWERS**

1. her 3. our 5. a 7. his 9. the
2. the 4. the 6. my 8. the 10. the
STEP SEVEN: Using the with mass nouns and abstract nouns

7.1 Mass nouns are non-countable nouns that have no definite size or shape. (See 3.6)
Here are some additional mass nouns.

- air
- cloth
- garbage
- paper
- land
- dirt
- dust
- food
- furniture
- grass
- rice
- soap
- sugar
- chalk
- oatmeal
- metal
- pork
- iron
- tea
- weather
- sunshine
- moonlight
- sunshine
- moonlight
- gold

Other mass nouns:

7.2 Do not use any article when talking about the entire category of a mass noun.
(Even if there is an adjective before the noun.)

a. Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.
b. Butter is fattening.
c. We need air to breathe.
d. Paper is made from wood pulp.
e. I like chocolate milk.
f. Colombian coffee is expensive.
g. ________________________________________________________________
h. ________________________________________________________________

7.3 Use the when you are talking about a specific example or portion of the mass.

a. The water from this fountain is cold.
b. The love of a dog is reliable.
c. The butter in this dish is melting.
d. The air in this room is hard to breathe.
e. ________________________________________________________________
f. ________________________________________________________________
EXERCISES
Write the where it is necessary:
1. _______ cheese is made from _______ milk.
2. _______ milk that you bought yesterday is sour.
3. _______ air at Mount Washington is cold, fresh and clean.
4. _______ gold is used to make jewelry.
5. _______ silver from that mine is a very high quality.
6. I want to make a sandwich. Where's _______ butter?
7. This house is full of _______ dust.
8. _______ dust in this house is two inches deep!
9. There is no shortage of _______ oil this year.
10. _______ ketchup in this bottle won't pour out.
11. _______ ketchup is made from tomatoes.
12. _______ coffee contains caffeine.
13. _______ Brazilian coffee is less expensive than Colombian coffee.
14. _______ coffee in this pot is too strong.
15. _______ ice is frozen water.
16. _______ ice on our lake was 18 inches thick last winter.

ANSWERS
2. The  6. the  10. The  14. The

7.4 An abstract noun is a word that names a non-tangible thing or idea, such as emotions, qualities or actions.
(Non-tangible - does not have a physical body; can not be touched.)
These are examples of abstract nouns:

- beauty
- fear
- disease
- space
- truth
- freedom
- small pox
- war
- love
- slavery
- nature
- work
- marriage
- history
- religion
- music
- murder
- hunger
- science
- time
- friendship
- art
- health
- photography
- poetry
- peace
- mathematics
- anger
- education
- literature
- English
- courage

Other abstract nouns:

7.5 Use *the* when the noun "belongs" to a particular person, group, or place.

a. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were happy about the marriage of their son.

b. The War Between the States was fought from 1861-1865.

c. Amy is studying the history of Japan.

d. ________________________________________________________________

7.6 Do not use *the* when the abstract noun includes the entire category it refers to.

a. Mr. Smith doesn't believe in marriage, (any marriage, or all marriage)

b. War is horrible, (any war)

c. History is a fascinating subject, (any or all history)

d. ________________________________________________________________

e. ________________________________________________________________

7.7 The name of a language, a school subject or field of study usually does not use the word *the* unless it is restricted, or belongs to a particular person or place.

a. He speaks French.

b. The French spoken in Quebec is different from the French spoken in Raris,

c. We studied literature last year.

d. Professor Jones teaches a course on the literature of the Middle Ages.

e. ________________________________________________________________

f. ________________________________________________________________
EXERCISES
Write the where it is needed in these sentences:

1. I am going to study _______ Spanish next year.
2. _______ death is not always sad.
3. The children were sad about _______ death of their cat.
4. I think _______ history of the United States is very interesting.
5. Many visitors to the United States were surprised by _______ kindness of Americans.
6. Children should learn _______ courtesy in school.
7. Do you like _______ poetry?
8. I like _______ poetry of the eighteenth century.
9. Marie appreciated _______ friendship of her classmate Anna.
10. _______ time flies.
11. We all enjoy _______ beauty.
12. He was greatly moved by _______ beauty of the sunset.
13. We enjoy _______ literature.
14. _______ literature of ancient Greece is still worth reading.
15. _______ space between the wall and the sofa was narrow.
16. Men have traveled in _______ space.
17. My favorite subjects at school were _______ English, _______ science, _______ gym and _______ math.

ANSWERS

1. T
2. T
3. the
4. the
5. the
6. T
7. T
8. the
9. the
10. T
11. T
12. the
13. T
14. The
15. The
16. T
17. T, T, T, T
7.8 Generally, no *the* is used with words for diseases.

| arthritis | AIDS | scarlet fever |
| cancer    | tuberculosis | appendicitis |
| high blood pressure | polio | heart disease |
| rheumatism | sinus trouble | leukemia |

a. He suffered from arthritis, heart disease and diabetes for most of his later life.

b. Children must be protected against diphtheria and whooping cough.

7.9 Exceptions

- an allergy
- a tumor
- a cold
- a fever
- a bad heart
- a broken leg (arm, finger, bone, etc.)
- a headache, toothache, backache, stomachache, etc.
- the measles
- the chicken pox
- the mumps
- the "willies"

a. Paul had the measles when he was six and the mumps when he was seven.

b. I have an allergy to tomatoes.

c. Loud noise gives me a headache.

d. The doctors removed a tumor from his stomach.

e. I get "the willies" when I walk past a dark cemetery at night.

7.10 Use *the* after *study*, *practice* and *play* for musical instruments.

a. Joe is studying the violin.

b. Can you play the piano?

c. She had to practice the trumpet two hours a day.

d. ______________________________________________
7.11 Don't use the before school subjects, sports or games.

a. We played baseball all afternoon,
b. Jack studied mathematics for years.
c. She beat me at checkers.
d. ______________________________________________

EXERCISES
Write the or a where they are needed. Write T where no article is needed,

1. Can Mary play ______ football?
2. I know how to play ______ chess.
3. Does your sister play ______ guitar?
4. No, she is studying ______ French horn, but she doesn't play it very well.
5. Bill is going to play ______ ping pong after school.
6. Jack plays ______ drums with a famous rock group.
7. When I go to college I am going to study ______ music.
8. Have you ever had ______ mumps?
9. My grandfather had ______ bad heart and ______ arthritis.
10. The doctors treated him for ______ high blood pressure.

ANSWERS

1. T  6. the
2. T  7. T
3. the  8. the
4. the  9. a, T
5. T  10. T

7.12 "Object - activity words"

Object-activity words are words that can have two related, but different meanings. One meaning of the word is an object (or building). The other meaning is the activity that is connected with that object or building.

bed    school    college    class    church
jail    prison    court    town    vacation
Use *the* when only the object or building is meant.
Don't use *the* when you include the activity that goes on in the object or at the building.

a. The bed in my room is comfortable.
   (*the* is used because only the physical bed is meant.)

b. I go to bed at ten o'clock.
   (*The* is not used because bed here means both an object and the activity that takes place in the object: resting or sleeping.)

c. The English class I go to is for international students.

d. We are studying about articles in English class.

**EXERCISE**
Notice the differences between the following sentences. Can you understand why *the* is used in some places and not in others?

1. School begins at nine o'clock.
2. The school I go to is on Anderson Avenue.
3. The criminal went to prison.
4. The prison is near the Hudson River.
5. My friend goes to church every Sunday.
6. Where is the church?
7. My older brother is at college.
8. I'll meet you in front of the college at nine o'clock.
9. Don't sit on the bed.
10. Our niece goes to bed at seven o'clock.
11. She took her ex-husband to court.
12. We met in front of the court.
13. _______________________________________________________
14. _______________________________________________________
STEP EIGHTH When to use the with place names and directions

8.1 Use no article for names of continents, countries, cities, states, counties, mountains, lakes, islands, beaches, streets, avenues, parks, Heaven, hell, and Paradise.

a. Asia and Africa are continents.

b. Boston is in Massachusetts.

c. Bergen County is in New Jersey.

d. Mount Everest is in Asia.

e. Puerto Rico and Hispaniola are islands.

f. We walked from Washington Square up Fifth Avenue to Central Park.

8.2 Use the with groups of islands or lakes, and mountain ranges, or names with plural forms.

a. The Philippines were named after Philip II of Spain.

b. Cuba is known as "the Pearl of the Antilles.

c. The Great Lakes are far from the Rocky Mountains.

d. Another name for Holland is the Netherlands,

e. The Andes Mountains are higher than the Alps.

f. The Azores are near the Canary Islands.

g. Many alligators live in The Everglades.

h. _______________________________________________________________
8.3 Use the with names containing Union, United, Kingdom, Republic, Empire, or Dynasty.

- the Soviet Union
- the U.S.S.R.
- the United States
- the United Arab Republic
- the Kingdom of Sweden
- the People's Republic of China
- the Roman Empire
- the Han Dynasty

8.4 Certain city names contain the.

- The Hague
- the Bronx

8.5 Some nicknames of cities contain the.

- "the Big Apple"
- "the City of Brotherly Love"

8.6 Names of streets, when followed by a phrase with "of" use the:

- the Avenue of the Americas

8.7 Use the with deserts, peninsulas, oceans, seas, gulfs, rivers, canals, bridges, tunnels, zoos, and gardens.

- a. The Sahara is a huge desert, bigger than the Mojave.
- b. The Red Sea separates Egypt from Israel and Saudi Arabia.
- c. The George Washington Bridge crosses the Hudson River.
- d. Cars can also cross via the Lincoln Tunnel or the Holland Tunnel.
- e. Children love the Bronx Zoo but are sometimes bored with the Botanical Gardens.
- f. The Mississippi and the Amazon are the two largest rivers in the world, while the Nile is the longest.
- g. _______________________________________________________________

8.8 Use the with North, South, East, and West when they are used to refer to a section of the country or of the world.

- a. The Civil War was fought between the North and the South.
- b. The Northeast is more densely populated than the Southwest.
- c. _______________________________________________________________

Use the with north, south, east and west after a prepositional phrase.

- d. The United States is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south.
- e. _______________________________________________________________
8.9 When north, south, east and west are used as single word adverbs, do not use the.
a. The explorer looked east, then west. He tested the wind and decided to continue north.
b. New York is south of Boston.
c. California is west of Nevada.
d. ______________________________________________________________

8.10 Colleges, schools and universities: Use the if the name of the school is followed
by a phrase beginning with of or for:
the University of Southern California
the City College of New York
the College of William and Mary
the School for the Blind
Do not use the if there is no phrase following the name of the school.
Rutgers State University
Notre Dame Northwestern University
Columbia University
Harvard
Yale
Do not use the if you use the initials only of the school.
a. I graduated from C.C.N.Y., but my brother went to U.C.L.A.
b. ______________________________________________________________

8.11 Use the with names of buildings
the Museum of Natural History
the Smithsonian the Gallery of Modern Art
the Empire State Building
the Holiday Inn
the Jefferson Memorial
the White House
the World Trade Center
Exceptions: Names of buildings with Hall, Hospital do not use the.

Some buildings with House do not use the.

a. The name of her dormitory was Archer Hall.
b. Valley Hospital is in Westwood; University Hospital is in Manhattan.
c. Blair House is in Washington, D.C.

EXERCISES

1. We saw _______ Eiffel Tower when we were in Paris.
2. Last year, I took a course at _______ University of Miami in _______ Florida.
3. _______ Canada is _______ north of _______ United States.
4. _____ Lake Superior is one of _______ Great Lakes,
5. We went to _______ Bahamas for our vacation.
6. _______ New York City is also known as "_______ Big Apple."
7. Have you ever climbed _______ Mount Washington?
8. Boats can go from _______ Albany to Buffalo using _______ Mohawk River and _______ Barge Canal.
9. _______ English Channel separates _______ Great Britain and France.
10. _______ Brooklyn Bridge goes over _______ East River.
11. I love and _______ Central Park. It's bounded by _______ Fifth Avenue on _______ east, and _______ Central Park West on _______ west.
12. _______ Southwest is called "The Sun Belt."

ANSWERS

1. the, T 5. the 9. The, T, T
2. the, T 6. T, The 10. The, the
3. T, T, the 7. T 11. T, T, the, T, the
4. T, the 8. T, T, the, the 12. The
STEP NINE: Other rules and exceptions

9.1 Do not use *the* with most names of businesses.

Macy's  Saks Fifth Avenue
Bloomingdales  Ford
Con Edison  New Jersey Bell
Black and Tan Buses  Jeffrey's Repair Shop
IBM

9.2 Exceptions: When the last word in the company name is *company*, *the* is sometimes used.

the Bridgetown Lumber Company
the Ford Motor Company
the A & P (the Atlantic and Pacific *Tea* Company)

9.3 About 80% of magazines do not use *the* with their titles:

Discovery  Time
Playboy  Scientific American
Ms.  Newsweek
Ebony  Reader's Digest
TV Guide  Better Homes and Gardens

But:

the Quarterly Review
the Saturday Evening Post
the New Yorker
9.4 Most newspapers have the word *the* in their titles:

The New York Times        The Daily News
The Post                   The Campus Reporter
The Washington Post        The Wall Street Journal

a. When I got home, the first thing I did was read The Post.
b. Would you get me The Times while you are at the store?
c. ____________________________________________________________________

9.5 Use *the* with the names of periods of history (ages, years, and centuries) and the names of wars, battles, agreements, treaties, and alliances.

the Golden Age of Greece  the Stone Age
the Pax Romana             the Industrial Revolution
the American Revolution    the Grand Alliance
the Middle Ages            the nineteen eighties
the twelfth century        the Roaring Twenties
the Renaissance

Exceptions:
World War One
World War Two

9.6 Use *the* with ordinal numbers before a noun,
(ordinal numbers = first, second, third, fourth, etc.)
(Next and last are sometimes used like ordinal numbers. In these cases, use the.

a. The first person to arrive was Mr. Hendricks.
b. The second person was Mrs. Smally.
c. We live on the fourth floor.
d. The last month of the year is December.
e. Sharon ate too much on her birthday. The next day she was sick.
f. ____________________________________________________________________
9.7 Next/last + year, week, month, holiday or season: If the point of time you are starting from is now, do not use the.

a. Next year we are going to the mountains for vacation.
b. Last week our company sold three thousand widgets.
c. I hope we can come to visit you next summer.
d. We had a good time last New Year's Eve.

e. ______________________________________________________________
f. ______________________________________________________________

9.8 Do not use the with certain phrases with ordinal numbers.

a. It was love at first sight.
b. At first glance, it looked like the right one.
c. On second thought, his idea seems quite useful.

9.9 When a number follows a noun, do not use the.

a. I read Chapter Nine and Chapter Eight for homework.
b. The plane departs from Gate Four.
c. ______________________________________________________________

9.10 Use the for names of sports teams, groups, organizations and government departments.

the American Red Cross  the fire department
the New York Mets  the police
the Philharmonic Orchestra  the board of education
the town council  the United States Senate
the House of Representatives  the I.R.S.
EXERCISES
Write the where it is needed. Write 6 where no article is needed.
1. _______ General Motors is one of America's largest companies.
2. Do you shop at _______ Bloomingdales?
3. His favorite magazines are _______ Scientific American and _______ Playboy.
4. _______ Washington Post is a famous newspaper.
5. We studied about _______ American Revolution in history class.
6. Many people were killed in _______ Second World War.
7. Are you going to school _______ next week?
8. _______ last time I saw her, she was a blonde.
9. Today is May first. _______ last month was April.
10. I was planning to go to his party, but on _______ second thought, I changed my mind.
11. Her bus leaves from _______ Platform Sixty-two.
12. Call _______ police!

ANSWERS
1. T 7. T
2. T 8. The
3. T, T 9. T
4. The 10. T
5. the 11. T
6. The 12. the
STEP TEN: Review exercises

Take each test and check your answers. If you have any errors, review the rules indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

REVIEW EXERCISE ONE: CONCEPTS

Complete these sentences:

1. The three words used most often in the English language are _______. _______ and _______. (0.1)
2. These three words are a part of speech called _____________________.
3. A noun is a word that names a ____________, ____________, ____________, or _____________________. (0.2)
4. Whenever you see or hear a, an or the, you can expect a _______________ to follow. (0.2)
5. The word a or an means __________________________ (0.2)
6. An is used before words that begin with _____________________ sounds. (1.3)
7. The indefinite article _______ is used before words that begin with consonant sounds. (1.4)
8. The word the is pronounced in two different ways, _______ before consonant sounds, and _______ before vowel sounds. (1.5, 1.6)
9. The indefinite (not definite, not previously mentioned) articles are _______ and _______. (3)
10. The definite article is _______. (5)
11. Boy, chair, star, foot are examples of __________________ (countable, non-countable) nouns. (3.3)
12. Non-countable nouns name things that have no definite size or shape. These are also called ____________________ nouns. (3.6)

ANSWERS

1. a, an, the 7. a
2. articles 8. [Dq], [Dı]
3. person, place, thing or idea 9. a, an
4. noun 10. the
5. one 11. countable
6. vowel 12. mass

Numbers correct: ____________ out of 19.
REVIEW EXERCISE TWO

Write *a* or *an* only where they are needed. Write *T* where no article is needed.

1. I ate _______ orange this morning. (1.3, 3.1)
2. The man drove the wrong way down _______ one-way street. (1.4, 3.1)
3. Do you spell your name with _______ "s" or _______ "z"? (1.3, 1.4)
4. We had to wait _______ hour for dinner. (1.3, 3.1)
5. We ordered _______ lamb for our meal. (3.2, 3.8)
6. Do you want _______ ice cream? (3.2)
7. Do you want _______ ice cream cone? (1.3, 3.1)
8. There are _______ interesting people in my class. (3.2)
9. I like _______ movies about mysteries. (3.2)
10. Jack had _______ egg on his tie. (3.8)

ANSWERS

1. an 6. T
2. a 7. an
3. an, a 8. T
4. an 9. T
5. T 10. T

Numbers correct: _______ out of 11.
REVIEW EXERCISE THREE
Write a, or an only where they are needed. Write 9 where no article is needed.

1. Jack's father is _______ professor at Boston University. (4.1)
2. His mother is _______ engineer. (4.1)
3. I want to be _______ pilot. (4.1)
4. Pilots can earn $45,000 ________ year. (4.2)
5. Mr. Zac is always grumpy and unpleasant. As a result, he has _______ few friends. (4.5)
6. I've been saving all year, so I have _______ little money. It's enough to buy a second-hand car. (4.5)
7. California is the kind of _______ place I'd like to go on vacation. (4.4)
8. It's _______ shame that you can't come to my party. (4.3)
9. Southerners never seem to be in _______ rush the way New Yorkers are. (4.3)
10. She is _______ excellent teacher. (4.1)
11. I brush my teeth twice _______ day. (4.2)
12. Quite _______ few people like tennis. (4.5)
13. Henry is the type of _______ man that everyone likes. (4.4)
14. Are you in _______ good mood today? (4.3)

ANSWERS

1. a 8. a
2. an 9. a
3. a 10. an
4. a 11. a
5. T 12. a
6. a 13. T
7. T 14. a
REVIEW EXERCISE FOUR
Write a, an, or the in the sentences below:

1. For my birthday I received _______ book and _______ umbrella. (3.1, 5.2)
2. _______ book was from Aunt Mary and _______ umbrella was from Uncle Tom. (5.1)
3. We couldn't see because. _______ lights went out. (5.2)
4. _______ sky is overcast today. I think it will rain. (5.3)
5. We watched _______ moon rise over the mountain. (5.3)
6. Sue is _______ good cook. As a matter of fact, she is _______ best cook I know. (4.1, 5.5)
7. Moby Dick is _______ interesting book, it's _______ best book I've ever read. (1.3, 5.5)

ANSWERS

1. a, an  
2. The, the  
3. the  
4. The  
5. the  
6. a, the  
7. an, the

Number correct: _______ out of 11

REVIEW EXERCISE FIVE:
Write the only where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed,

1. _______ monkeys are smarter than _______ dogs. (6.1)
2. _______ women in my family are all short. (6.1)
3. I like _______ fresh fruits and _______ vegetables. (6.1)
4. Everyone loves _______ clowns. (6.1)
5. _______ clowns in Ringling Brothers' Circus are _______ funniest clowns in _______ world. (6.1, 5.5, 5.3)
6. _______ Sunday is the first day of the week. (6.2)
7. I'll see you _______ Tuesday at 4 o'clock. (6.2)
8. Will you be home for _______ Christmas? (6.2)
9. America's birthday is _______ Fourth of July. (6.3)
10. Children in school are excited on _______ Friday before vacation begins. (6.4)
11. I read a story about _______ Richard _______ Lionhearted. (6.9)
12. _______ Mr. Jones is our teacher. (6.5)
13. _______ Smiths have been our neighbors for a long time. (6.7)
14. Have you ever seen _______ Adams Family on television? (6.8)
15. The treaty was signed by _______ King George. (6.5)

**ANSWERS**

1. T, T  
2. The  
3. T, T  
4. T  
5. The, the, the  
6. T  
7. T  
8. T  
9. the  
10. the  
11. T, the  
12. T  
13. The  
14. the  
15. T

Number right: _______ out of 20

**REVIEW EXERCISE SIX**

Write *a, an, the, or my, his, or her.*

1. I have _______ headache. (6.11)
2. I accidentally poked myself in _______ eye. (6.11)
3. Frank hurt _______ hand when he caught the ball. (6.10)
4. She washed _______ face with warm water and soap. (6.10)
5. The ball hit me in _______ head. (6.11)
6. The policeman was shot in _______ shoulder. (6.11)
7. The little boy got dirt on _______ shirt. (6.10)
Write *the* where it is needed. Write *T* where no article is needed,

8. _______ milk comes from _______ cows. (7.1, 3.2)
9. _______ milk in this glass is sour. (7.4)
10. _______ chocolate milk is delicious. (7.2, 7.3)
11. Some people will do anything for _______ money. (7.2)
12. I enjoy _______ literature of the Middle Ages. (7.5)
13. _______ literature was my favorite subject in school. (7.6)
14. Do you like _______ music of Mozart? (7.5)
15. Everyone likes _______ music. (7.6)
16. Someday there will be an end to _______ war. (7.7)
17. Someday there will be an end to _______ war in Nicaragua. (7.5)
18. Charlie has been studying _______ Italian for two years. (7.6)
19. _______ Italian spoken in Rome is different from _______ Italian spoken in Naples. (7.5)

**ANSWERS:**

1. a  
2. the  
3. his  
4. her  
5. the  
6. the  
7. his  
8. T, T  
9. The  
10. T  
11. T  
12. the  
13. T  
14. the  
15. T  
16. T  
17. the  
18. T  
19. The, the  

Number right: _______ out of 20
REVIEW EXERCISE SEVEN
Write a or the where they are needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. Mr. Jackson had _______ bad heart, and _______ high blood pressure. (7.9, 7.8)
2. She had _______ stomach ache, but it was not _______ appendicitis. (7.9, 7.8)
3. Bob caught _______ mumps from Kelly. (7.9)
4. You can get a vaccination against _______ measles, and _______ polio. (7.9, 7.8)
5. Laura had _______ fever of 100.2 degrees. (7.9)
6. Dr. Wheeler plays _______ piano very well. (7.10)
7. She also studied _______ violin. (7.10)
8. Do you enjoy _______ mathematics? (7.11)
9. We play _______ bridge every Sunday afternoon. (7.11)
10. My brother plays _______ soccer. (7.11)

ANSWERS:
1. a, T 6. the
2. a, T 7. the
3. the 8. T
4. the, T 9. T
5. a 10. T

Number right: _______ out of 13

REVIEW EXERCISE EIGHT
Write the only where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. Everyone goes to _______ bed early at our house. (7.12)
2. _______ bed in the hotel we stayed at was very comfortable. (7.12)
3. What time does _______ school begin? (7.12)
4. I go to _______ church on Sundays. (7.12)
5. _______ Australia, _______ Europe, and _______ Africa are continents. (8.1)
6. We went to _______ Lake Louise for our vacation. (8.1)
7. _______ Great Lakes are ______ largest fresh water lakes in America. (8.2, 5.5)
8. _______ Alps are in _______ Austria and _______ Switzerland. (8.2, 8.1)
9. _______ Soviet Union and _______ People's Republic of China are two great world powers. (8.3)

10. Her house was on _______ Twenty-ninth Street. (8.1)

11. _______ Everglades is a swamp in _______ Florida. (8.2, 8.1)

12. _______ Canada is north of _______ United States. (8.1, 8.3)

13. _______ Bronx is one of the boroughs of _______ New York City. (8.1, 8.4)

14. _______ Sixth Avenue is called _______ Avenue of the Americas in Midtown Manhattan. (8.1, 8.6)

15. _______ Hague is the capital of _______ Netherlands. (8.4, 8.2)

ANSWERS
1. T 6. T 11. The, T
2. The 7. The, the 12. T, the
3. T 8. The, T, T 13. The, T
4. T 9. The, the 14. T, The
5. T, T, T 10. T 15. The, The

Number right: __________ out of 26

REVIEW EXERCISE NINE
Write the where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. _______ Golden Gate Bridge connects _______ San Francisco with _______ Marin County. (8.7, 8.1)

2. _______ Gulf of Mexico is _______ south of Texas. (8.7, 8.9, 8.1)

3. _______ Missouri River flows into _______ Mississippi River. (8.7)

4. I'm from _______ South. (8.8)

5. _______ Mexico is bounded by _______ Pacific Ocean on _______ west, _______ United States on _______ north, _______ Gulf of Mexico on _______ east, and _______ Guatemala on _______ south. (8.1, 8.7, 8.8)

6. Italy is _______ south of Switzerland. (8.9)

7. Karen went to _______ Harvard, while her sister went to _______ University of Indiana. (8.10, 8.11)
8. While we were in Washington, D.C., we visited _______ White House, _______ Lincoln Memorial, and _______ Smithsonian Museum. (8.11)

ANSWERS

1. The, T, T  
2. The, T, T  
3. The, the  
4. the  
5. T, the, the, the, the, the, the, T, the  
6. T  
7. T, the  
8. the, the, the

Number right: _______ out of 24.

REVIEW EXERCISE TEN
Write the where it is needed. Write T where no article is needed.

1. My favorite magazines are _____ Time, _____ Newsweek, and _____ Life. (9.3)  
2. The boss reads two newspapers a day: _______ New York Times and _______ Wall Street Journal. (9.4)  
3.  We like to shop at _______ Bloomingdales or _______ Macy's. (9.1)  
4.  _______ Renaissance began in Italy during _______ fourteenth century. (9.5)  
5.  What was _______ first job you held when you graduated college? (9.6)  
6.  I've told you for _______ hundredth time, don't exaggerate! (9,6)  
7.  _______ first and second chapters were hard, but by the time I got to _______ Chapter Ten, I understood everything. (9.6, 9.9)  
8. December is _______ last month of the year. (9.6)  
9. I went to visit him _______ last month. (9.7)  
10. Do you believe in love at _______ first sight? (9.8)

ANSWERS

1. T, T, T  
2. The, the  
3. T, T  
4. The, the  
5. the  
6. the  
7. the, T  
8. the  
9. T  
10. T

Number right: _______ out of 16.
MASTERY TEST
PART I Write a, an or the where they are needed.
Write T where no article is needed.

1. I like _______ rice.
2. _______ cats are good mouse hunters.
3. Juliana used to play. _______ guitar.
4. We saw _______ fattest lady in _______ world at the circus last week.
5. _______ Bob plays _______ tennis very well.
6. _______ water is _______ best drink when you are thirsty.
7. Please put the pillow on _______ bed.
8. I don't go to _______ school on _______ Sunday.
9. There was an accident in front of _______ church.
10. I wrote a long letter to _______ O'Briens.
11. We need _______ oxygen to breathe.
12. _______ sugar in this bowl is full of lumps.
13. What is _______ worst thing that ever happened to you?
14. _______ love is a beautiful emotion.
15. Frank studied _______ history at _______ college.
16. What time do you go to _______ bed?
17. _______ school is on the corner.
18. I think that _______ mathematics is _______ hardest subject in school.
19. _______ seals are very good swimmers.
20. I don't like _______ dresses in this store,
21. When I spoke about Bill Martin, I meant _______ Bill Martin who lives in Cliffside Park, not _______ Bill Martin from Englewood.
22. Do you like _______ American food?
23. _______ stars are shining brightly.
24. _______ Lake Michigan is one of _______ Great Lakes.
25. Most people hate _______ war.
26. Ed wants to be _______ composer.
27. She earns seven dollars _______ hour at her part-time job.
28. I heard the news on _______ radio.
29. We see Frank four or five times _______ week.
30. You seem to be in _______ good mood.
31. There is ____ little hope that the police will find the thieves. They left no clues.
32. Sam is always in _______ hurry.
33. Many _______ tear has to fall in the game of love and romance.
34. I found _______ wallet and a keychain. _______ wallet was empty but it had _______ identification card in it.
35. It's _______ beautiful day today. _______ sky is blue and _______ sun is shining. _______ weather is perfect.
36. Last night _______ moon rose at seven p.m.
37. We went to visit _______ Smiths.
38. Leif _______ Lucky was the Viking who discovered America.
39. I have _______ headache.
40. Bob bumped himself on ___ head.
41. We were worried about _______ disappearance of our dog.
42. Doctors are hoping to find a cure for _______ cancer.
43. Patty had _______ fever of 103 degrees when she had _______ mumps.
44. Let's play _______ baseball after school.
45. Barbara practices _______ piano for two hours every day.
46. What time do you go to _______ bed?
47. The thief spent five years in _______ prison.
48. _______ Central Park Zoo is on _______ Fifth Avenue.
49. We stayed at _______ Plaza Hotel.
50. _______ Mexico is south of _______ United States.
ANSWERS

1. T  14. T  27. an  40. the
2. T  15. T, T  28. the  41. the
3. the  16. T  29. a  42. T
4. the, the  17. The  30. a  43. a, the
5. T, T  18. T, the  31. T  44. T
6. T, the  19. T  32. a  45. the
7. the  20. the  33. a  46. T
8. T, T  21. the, the  34. a, The, an  47. T
9. the  22. T  35. a, The, the, The  48. The, T
10. the  23. The  36. the  49. the
11. T  24. T, the  37. the  50. T, The
12. The  25. T  38. the  
13. the  26. a  39. a

Number correct: _______ out of 65.

PART II Answer these questions in complete sentences. Have a native-English speaking person correct them.

1. Where are you from?
2. What street do you live on?
3. What subjects do you enjoy?
4. Do you play any musical instruments? What are they?
5. What games and sports do you play?
6. What did you eat for lunch yesterday?
7. What language do you speak?
8. What time do you go to bed?
9. Have you ever traveled? Where to?
10. What museums have you visited?
11. What famous places have you seen?
12. What section of the country are you from?

__________________________________________________________________

13. What countries border your country?

__________________________________________________________________

14. What rivers and mountains are in your country?

__________________________________________________________________

15. What animals do you like?

__________________________________________________________________

16. What newspapers and magazines do you read?

__________________________________________________________________

17. What school or college did you go to?

__________________________________________________________________

18. Who would you call to report an accident?

__________________________________________________________________

19. Who is your favorite movie star?

__________________________________________________________________

20. What century is this?

__________________________________________________________________

21. Where do you buy your food?

__________________________________________________________________

22. What time do you go to bed?

__________________________________________________________________

23. What illnesses have you had?

__________________________________________________________________

24. What do you put on your hamburger before you eat it?

__________________________________________________________________

25. What day is your birthday?

__________________________________________________________________

PART III Write or tell the story of The Wild Dog and the Farm Dog in your own words.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

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Example:

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